

TOWN OF RISING SUN

BOARD OF TOWN COMMISSIONERS

MAYOR
Judith M. Cox

COMMISSIONERS
Deborah Craig
James Majewski
August Pierson
Stewart Yust

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR
Calvin Bonenberger, Jr.

CLERK-TREASURER
Sandra D. Didra

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July 22, 2008

Present: Judy Cox, Skip Yust, Jim Majewski, Debbie Craig,

Town Administrator: Calvin Bonenberger, Jr.

Absent: Secretary, Sandi Didra & Augie Pierson

Guests: See Attached List

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Commissioners of Rising Sun was held on July 22, 2008 at the Town Hall with all members in attendance. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Cox followed by the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence.

The minutes of the July 8, 2008 meeting were presented. Mrs. Craig advised that she had a correction to the minutes: on the second page, second paragraph it should be "vests" instead of "bests"; and in the next paragraph following the last sentence it should say "for the purpose of discussion"; and in the seventh paragraph she advised that she did not say that she would like to see a policy drawn up and requested that the sentence be stricken from the minutes. . With those amendments a motion for approval was made by Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mr. Majewski and carried.

Mayor Cox read the Record of Closed Meetings for an Executive Session held on 7/8/08 the purpose of the meeting was to discuss employment not related to public business the topics discussed was the Family Leave & Medical Act. A motion was made and carried to award up to 12 weeks of Family Medical Leave to an employee. A motion for approval of the executive session record was made by Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mr. Yust and carried.

Buddy Cather was in attendance to request permission to hold the annual hunter safety program at the American Legion. He presented the Board members with copies of what takes place during this program. Mr. Cather went on to explain the reasons for hunting and how it is looked upon in the State of Maryland and to talk about past students and families of students who have participated in the program. He also shared with the Board an incident that had happened last year with some kids walking and skateboarding where they had to be told to get back across the line. A motion was made by Mrs. Craig to approve the Hunter Safety Program at the American Legion for this year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Yust. Mrs. Craig advised that since the program nor the Town has received any complaints, she recommends going forward with it. With no further comments or discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bonenberger advised that he was filling in by taking the minutes for Ms. Didra who was on vacation. Ms. Didra had hoped to be here but got tied up working at the County Fair.

Town of Rising Sun Resolution 2008-03A RESOLUTION TITLED HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS; WHICH MODIFIES CHAPTER 7 OF THE TOWN OF RISING SUN PERSONNEL MANUAL TITLED HEALTH, RETIREMENT AN OTHER BENEFITS; WHICH REPEALS AND REPLACES RESOLUTION 2004-03, was read by Mr. Bonenberger. Mr. Bonenberger gave an in-depth explanation as to the reasons for this Resolution and expounded on the type of coverage now available to Town employees. Mr. Majewski question how you determine who has the coverage, if an employee is covered by their spouse's insurance. Mr. Bonenberger explained how coverage on a spouse's policy worked. A motion to approve Resolution 2008-03 titled Personnel Rules and Regulations Manual revisions and amendments 7/22/08 was made by Mrs. Craig and seconded by Mr. Yust.. Mr. Yust advised that he hoped the Board kept looking for ways to offer health insurance coverage for retired employees. Additional discussion took place concerning the availability of such coverage that as of now no insurance company in the State of Maryland was offering coverage for retirees. The motion carried by a vote of 3 yeas and 0 nays

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mayor - Mayor Cox had nothing to report

Finance - Mr. Bonenberger advised that we continue to look at all of our accounts and vendors and continue to find better prices on everything. We have already done health care and cell phones and we are working on a couple of other items.

Streets & Sidewalks - Mr. Yust advised that as a result of meetings with Delmarva Power and the pending S Queen Street sidewalk retrofit program, Delmarva will be relocating the utility pole at Queen & Cherry which is obstructing sight distances for traffic which was identified in the traffic study. In addition, although final confirmation of approval for the sidewalk retrofit has not been received, we are trying to get the State through Delegate Rudolph to put off the repaving of S. Queen until the sidewalk project is completed.

Mrs. Craig questioned the moving of the PNC Bank sign. Mr. Bonenberger advised that he was trying to schedule a meeting to that affect. He advised that Mr. Majewski has volunteered to trim the tree at Walnut and Main which was also on the list from the traffic study. Mr. Bonenberger also advised that with an upgrade planned by Delmarva Power, they will be replacing all of the poles on S. Queen Street, which should be a significant savings to the Town. Mr. Bonenberger explained what a benefit the moving of these poles was to the Town and that there are now 3 major projects on S. Queen Street: the moving of the poles, the sidewalk retrofit and the repaving.

Water & Sewer - Mr. Majewski had nothing to report

Public Safety - In the absence of Mr. Pierson, Mr. Bonenberger reported on a Highway Safety Grant received by the police department for motorcycle safety. Chief Michael expounded on the areas covered by the grant. The grant would cover overtime and administrative costs. It would also include an officer going to class for a day which would be considered an in-kind donation. A motion was made to accept the grant by Mrs. Craig, seconded by Mr. Majewski and carried.

Parks & Recreation - Mrs. Craig advised that Mr. Bonenberger had met with the Town's Engineer to discuss various drainage and swale issues involving the community park and we are awaiting a price for the engineering for the site. She also advised that they would be meeting with one of the vendors next week to review suggested equipment and layouts for the park. Mrs. Craig advised that she was looking into applying for the Parks & Playground Grant for 2009 for Triangle Park. The proposal must be submitted by August 23rd. The Cecil Arts Council did their unveiling of the "Just a Daydream Away" last Wednesday. Mayor Cox, Mrs. Craig and the artist Pat Fowler attended. They presented the artists with their awards and had a reception. Rising Sun was the only Town with a mural. There were 5 towns represented and the other artwork will be placed around the other towns. We had a photo of our mural. The photo will eventually be on display at Town Hall.

Town Administrator - Mr. Bonenberger reported on the problems with the elevator. He also advised how diligent the repair person was and will write a letter to the company. Mr. Bonenberger referred to the graft that the Board had used when working on the budget and how he was looking into ways to cut energy costs and save the Town money. He brought attention to the fact that it was a little stuffy and humid in the meeting room. He reported that the air conditioner runs most of the time to an empty room. He has had maintenance contact someone about installing some ceiling fans which would cut the cooling cost significantly.

Mr. Bonenberger reported that another way of cutting costs was to discontinue the cleaning service and the Town employees will be keeping the facility clean. We will be moving forward with the purchase of a new vacuum cleaner. The new cell phones went into effect today.

Under Planning and Land Development, Mr. Bonenberger advised that there was a special workshop meeting this Saturday, July 26, 2008 at 9 am. They will be working on finalizing ordinances recommendations for future consideration by the Mayor and Commissioners. They are also working on a Sunset law on land development plans so that once the developer secures approval they have a time frame to work within and must adhere to any current changes in the laws and can be made to go back through the approval process.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Planning & Zoning will be on Monday, July 28, 2008 at 7 pm. They will be hearing cases for 301 W Main for a beauty shop and 212 N. Walnut for a physical therapy office. Then the Appeals Board will be meeting on July 31, 2008 at 7 pm to hear the same 2 cases as they require the granting of special exceptions and/or variances.

He advised that there was nothing to report under Code Enforcement.

Historical Preservation Commission - Tom Mumey reported that a group from Oxford had come down for a tour of the museum in spite of the elevator not working. They walked up the steps and spent about 3 hours here. The group is not meeting in the month of August and will resume meetings in September. Tom advised that they have received a wooden hand water pump given back to the Town by Maryland Environmental, he believes. It is at the maintenance building and he will make arrangements with Ron to have it brought up to the museum. It is 6 ft high and will cover about 12 x 15 inch square. His research reveals that one such pump was located down Main Street just behind the bank. They were made of oak and maple woods.

Old Business – None

New Business – None.

CITIZEN'S INPUT:

None

With no other business coming before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Transcribed from recording by:

Sandra D. Didra,
Secretary